

May 2024



## Lighting up the warehouse to bring the LIGHT of God's love to the world!

Who knew (except the Lord of the world) where a conversation with a future father-in-law of my granddaughter was going to lead! But the Lord always knows. Michael just happens to work for LEDVANCE in Lexington, KY, and they just happen to deal with LED lamps. And at the time OGT Indiana was just beginning to switch over the lighting from fluorescent bulbs to LED lights. So, at just the right time, our God connects two people to accomplish something neither one had dreamt of before.

When I was asked how many lamps would be needed to complete the changeover, I was a bit hesitant to answer because I knew that number was going to be large. But Michael pressed on and I gave him the number, that being 60 8' bulbs, and 75 4' bulbs. The next time we talked, Michael said the order was being placed and would be delivered to the warehouse.

*Flabbergasted* would be an understatement in regard to my reaction and surprise. But the Lord just keeps surprising and providing, all at just the right time.

Soon the entire warehouse and sorting room will be LED lit. This is such a blessing from LEDVANCE that helps OGT keep costs down, initially with their gift, and then continually with lower electric bills for the lighting of the building.



It's bringing light to the warehouse so that our volunteers can share the Light of God's love to a world in need. That's really what OGT is all about! ***"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to Me."*** Jesus' words in Matthew 25:40.

**Thanks** to LEDVANCE and Michael for the blessing to keep OGT moving forward in God's work!

## The furniture comes and the furniture goes!

OGT was contacted by Cindy Waddle, Regional manager of Charwood Hospitality Partners, asking if we could use some good, barely used furniture. The company was liquidating the furniture in their complex. This turned into a huge blessing for many who needed help as they came to OGT.



Dressers, night stands, round dining tables and chairs, lamps, end tables of many sizes, even king mattresses and bed frames were among the treasure trove of gifts made possible by Charwood. Utilizing 17 volunteers loading, unloading and reloading three trailers in the course of three hours, all was safely nestled into a semi-trailer at our dock and a recently purchased container on site. A little over two months later, most of the furniture has found a new home with folks in our immediate area. Our thanks to Charwood Hospitality and to Cindy for making this all possible in being able to help so many families in need get that help and a hand-up.

People helping people really describes Orphan Grain Train's mission and ministry. These past few months has brought that point home in so many ways. And all we can do is **Praise the Lord!**

## At rest with the Lord.

Orphan Grain Train Indiana has lost two of their devoted and faithful workers and supporters. Jerry Maley and Al Lazzell have been given their eternal rest with their Lord.



At the November board meeting Jerry and Carol Maley submitted their resignation from the board, with Jerry citing his health issues. Later that month, Jerry passed away. Al Lazzell passed away in January, 2024. OGT lost two warriors who fought hard for OGT and its mission, devoting years of service. These two men will be missed. In their honor, the memorials given to OGT were directed to be used to further inform the community of its mission. A ministry partnership was established with **BridgeFM** Christian radio to continue to share OGT's mission and how people can be involved with OGT.

## What do you hear about Haiti?

That is a million dollar question we hear but there is not a million dollar answer. The load dedicated and bound for Haiti was finally transported to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, OH, in March. Randy Fisher was able to use a Cummins semi-tractor to deliver the load. From Dayton it was flown to Charleston to await an opportunity to fly into Port-au-Prince airport, if and when the political tensions and turmoil subside. This load was sent through the Denton program which cooperates with the United States Air Force as a training mission to move freight and supplies.

There have been lots of prayers offered up on behalf of this load because there is such a desperate need in Haiti. But praise the Lord, things did start to move. Thanks to Cummins and Randy for their help and time to get it moved to Dayton. Please continue to pray for these needed items to reach their intended recipients.

## The scenery has changed a bit!

OGT got a new look on the east side of the building this past winter. The two semi-trailers that were used to store empty banana boxes and extra supplies were replaced with two 40' shipping containers.



This switchover eliminates the possibility of slipping on wet, snowy, or icy steps making it easier on the aging legs and muscles of volunteers.

Greg and Elizabeth came up with a great idea and provided for the purchase of a container. Thank you from all of us who previously had to negotiate those steps, especially in weather that wasn't always very cooperative.

## MANY THANKS to all who support OGT!

In looking over the number of names of those who support OGT, an amazing list of people "get" the ministry of Orphan Grain Train. From its beginnings in Seymour on the Bobb farm to the Wint farm near Azalea and now at our warehouse in Jonesville, the support and encouragement has never lessened. OGT has been able to provide needed help to folks locally, nationally, and internationally, all because of people who "get" the mission and its outreach. The following list of deliveries covers April 2023 through March 2024 and it couldn't be done without the support of people like you!

## Where it has gone!

April – Domestic loads to Manna From Heaven, Myra, KY; Selma, AL, disaster; Del Rio, TX, border ministry; and International load to Republic of Georgia (40' container).

May – Domestic load to Cornerstone Children's Ranch, Quemado, TX, (53' trailer)

July – International load to Lithuania (40' container)

September – Domestic load to Sommerset, KY; International load to Latvia (40' container).

October – Domestic load to Methodist Mountain Ministry, Jackson, KY; Cornerstone Children's Ranch, Quemado, TX (53' trailer).

November – Domestic load to Matthew25Ministries Cincinnati OH; Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, clothes for seminary students.

December – Domestic load to Manna From Heaven, Myra, K.

February – Domestic load to The Attic, McKee, KY; Accessibility, Columbus; Matthew25Ministries, OH.

March – Domestic load to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base-bound for Haiti; Matthew25Ministries, OH; Cornerstone Children's Ranch, Quemado, TX.

**What it Cost –2023 total freight cost - \$33,058.00**

**Republic of Georgia - \$10,543**

**Lithuania - \$4,970; Latvia - \$5,345**

**Domestic transportation costs totaled \$9,400**

**Gas for pickup/trailer - \$2800**

Without your financial support these many loads would not have been possible. THANKS to one and all for your generosity!



At *Manna from Heaven*, Lois and Ralph, along with daughter, all help unload the latest load delivered to Myra. They are so appreciative of all

the supplies, furniture, clothes, and *Love the Hungry* meals that are brought down from Indiana. This is a

community that deals with 75-80% unemployment due to coal mines shut completely down.

## Where does it all come from?

That's another question people ask. Simple answer: from the generous folks who live around here. The OGT pickup puts on quite a few miles week after week to pick up donations of appliances, furniture, housewares, and clothing of all sorts and sizes.

Also, on those days when OGT is closed, next to the warehouse is an enclosed trailer for people to drop off items.

THANK YOU! Your donations are always very much appreciated!

## Want to help?

Heres another way for you to support OGT. Thrivent members may apply for a Thrivent Action Team Card to use for funding various projects, such as items for School Kits, Health Kits, buying bike parts to repair donated bikes, all of which can be sent to locations overseas and to Kentucky and Texas.



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If you have Thrivent insurance, please check into how you can use the money they offer to help out the OGT programs.

Also, if you have IRA RMDs (Required Minimum Distributions), or would consider a QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) as a tax benefit to you, these would be blessings to OGT. Your financial advisor would be able to help you with these.

There are also opportunities to donate online by accessing our page on the [www.ogt.org](http://www.ogt.org) website. Just click on the location tab, scroll to Indiana, and find the donation button.

Again... **THANK YOU** for all your support!

## OGT Wish List

1. **Prayers of the faithful** that OGT Indiana continues to serve the needs of those less fortunate, and remains true to the Lord's challenge defined in James regarding the care of widows and orphans, as well as the words of the Lord who calls us to clothe the naked, feed the hungry, care for the sick, and visit those in prison.
2. **Drivers and those willing to assist** in picking up donations, especially appliances and furniture. Please call 812-405-2045 to add your name to the OGT list of volunteers.
3. **Volunteers** willing to share a couple of hours a week or every other week or whatever fits your schedule. The basic days for sorting and packing items are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Other times can be scheduled whenever OGT members are available.
4. **Assisting Manager** who would be able to give two days a week to learn about the inner workings of OGT Indiana.

**Email your newsletter?** If this is something you would like, please email [indianaogt@gmail.com](mailto:indianaogt@gmail.com) to let us know.

## **For Your Information**

OGT is here to receive your donations in a couple of ways.

1. On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday donations can be delivered through our drive through where folks will be on hand to help unload.
2. On days OGT is closed, there is an enclosed trailer on the East side of the building near the overhead door. It is unlocked so that your donations can be put inside.
3. OGT has two 18' trailers that are used to pick up the larger donations of appliances and furniture. You may call the warehouse at 812-405-2045 to make arrangements for a

pickup. Wednesday and Thursday mornings are the usual days available for pickups.

4. A special OGT collection box is available in the coat room at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Columbus. Items to donate can be brought there before coming in for worship.

**OGT Board Members** are Earl and Arlene Ayers, Elinor Brown, Jan Buss, Marge Lazzell, Charles Meier, Irene Shireman, Vaughn Sylva, Gene Wint, Pastor Bauman, and Branch Manager Gene Ernst.

These folks serve as volunteers along with a myriad of other volunteers who sort, pack, load trailers, and help with pickups every week. Volunteers are indeed the heart of Orphan Grain Train. Say a prayer of thanks for them and for what they are doing and have done for 25 years at OGT Indiana Branch.

**Orphan Grain Train is a 501c3 Nonprofit Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and also around the world. Orphan Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet peoples' real needs. The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's love for us and His example of being a servant to others.**

**Orphan Grain Train**

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**812-405-2045**

**[indianaogt@gmail.com](mailto:indianaogt@gmail.com)**

Visit **[www.ogt.org/indiana](http://www.ogt.org/indiana)**

**OGT Hours**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Serving the Lord with you,

*Gene Ernst, Volunteer Manager*

